GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2978
ANSWERED ON:22.08.2006
TEA GROWERS IN HIMACHAL PRADESH .
Khanna Shri Avinash Rai

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) Whether a large number of tea growers have stopped growing tea in some States especially in Kangra, Himachal Pradesh;

(b) If so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor, State-wise; and

(c) The steps taken by the Government to save tea growers in these States?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY(SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) & (b) : As per available information, except for some growers in Kangra District of Himachal Pradesh, growers in other tea growing States have not stopped growing tea. The closure of three cooperative factories in the Kangra District of Himachal Pradesh and fragmentation of tea areas into small parcels of land due to family partition etc. are some of the reasons which led to stoppage of plucking by some tea growers.

(c) : Two of the closed tea factories in the Kangra District of Himachal Pradesh have been privatised by the State Government by leasing them to private firms and tea growers around these factories have since resumed tea cultivation and regular plucking. Two old tea factories have upgraded their processing capabilities by converting to the manufacture of black orthodox tea with financial assistance from the Tea Board. Small manufacturing units are being encouraged to produce good quality green tea and 17 units have registered themselves with the Tea Board. In addition, assistance is also extended by the Tea Board to the growers for revival of their abandoned gardens through replantation/rejuvenation pruning and infilling. The Tea Board is also extending financial assistance by way of grant in-aid for location specific research and extension activities.